

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office action dated January 15, 2003 are respectfully requested. Applicants petition the Commissioner for a 2-month extension of time. A separate petition accompanies this amendment.

I. Amendments**A. In the Specification:**

The specification is amended to correctly set forth the claim to priority. The specification is further amended to correct obvious typographical errors.

B. In the Claims:

Claim 16-17, 20-21, 23-24, and 26 stand cancelled.

Claim 14 is amended to recite a first and a second plastic substrate, wherein the planar surface of the first plastic substrate includes at least one microstructure. Support for this amendment is found, for example, on page 7, lines 3-8. Claim 14 is further amended to recite that the first and second plastic substrates are heated above their glass transition temperature for a time sufficient to allow the polymer molecules to interpenetrate the apposed surfaces to create a morphological bond. Support for this amendment is found on page 4, lines 3-10.

Claims 15 and 18-19 are amended for consistent terminology with claim 14.

Claims 18, 19, and 25 are amended to depend from claim 14.

New claims 27-31 find support in the table below.

Claim	Support
27	See page 4, lines 3-6
28	See page 4, lines 3-6
29	See page 4, lines 11-13
30	See page 4, lines 3-6
31	See page 14, lines 26-28

By these amendments, no new subject matter has been added.

II Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 14-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 16, 21, 23, and 26 stand cancelled. The rejection of claim 14 is addressed below.

Claim 14 was rejected as allegedly containing new matter. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the requirement of heating the plastic substrates above their glass transition temperature and then interfacing the heated planar surfaces was not described in the specification.

Applicant's amended claim 14 recites thermal bonding of the apposed first and second plastic substrates, which are formed of a similar polymeric material, by heating them above their glass transition temperature. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to page 4, lines 1-13 for a description of thermal bonding.

One of skill in the art would reasonably conclude in light of the specification that the Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention at the time the invention was filed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 16-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 16, 21, 23, and 26 stand cancelled.

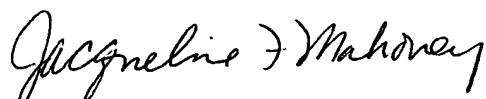
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims pending in the application are in condition for Allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at (650) 838-4410 if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,



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